

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /029 W  
-----116776 222219Z /66

R 221423Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 297  
USDOC WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPT. FOR NEA/ARP

USDOC FOR ITA/BED/CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BBSR, BTRA, KU  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION TO  
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REF: BEIRUT 848 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: KUWAIT CHAMBER OPPOSED ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
MISSION TO U.S. AT FEB. 4-6 AMMAN MEETING AS  
ILL-TIMED BUT WILL PARTICIPATE IN MISSION BEGINNING APRIL  
17, EVEN THOUGH IT REALIZES MISSION LIKELY TO BE

UNWIELDY AND EVEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE SUGGEST DEPT. CONSIDER HAVING HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL BRIEF MISSION ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE DEPT./USDOC CAN PROVIDE TO KUWAITI MISSION MEMBERS, WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. SUPPLEMENTING REFTEL, SENIOR KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIAL JAMAL UDDIN EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT MISSION, MENTIONING FEAR OF ARAB DISARRAY AND BELIEF OF KUWAIT CHAMBER THAT UNION ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (UACC) MISSION TO U.S. SHOULD INCLUDE SPEAKERS QUALIFIED TO TALK ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS BEYOND NARROW BUSINESS INTEREST OF MOST CHAMBER MEMBERS. EVEN THOUGH KUWAIT HAD PROPOSED MISSION AT NOV. 1977 UNION OF ARAB CHAMBERS MEETING, KUWAIT WAS NOW ONLY RELUCTANTLY GOING ALONG. ABOUT 20 KUWAITI BUSINESSMEN ARE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE, LED BY KUWAIT CHAMBER PRESIDENT ABDULAZIZ AL-SAGAR AND VICE PRESIDENTS YUSIF AL-FULAIJ AND MOHAMAD AL-KHORAFL.

3. JAMAL UDDIN SAID IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MAN CHARGED WITH ORGANIZING MISSION, UACC SEC. GEN. DR. DAJANI, WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO ORGANIZE IT. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT WITHOUT NEEDED ORGANIZATION, APPROPRIATE SPEAKERS AND PRE-AGREED ARAB POLICY POSITIONS, MISSION LIKELY TO BE "TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEKS OF HEADACHES WITH NO MEANINGFUL RESULTS", WITH MISSION DEGENERATING INTO SERIES OF BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS FOR THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, HUNDREDS BEING MADE FOR THE SAUDIS, AND FEW FOR THE REST.

4. JAMAL UDDIN COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH VARIOUS ARAB CHAMBERS REALIZE THAT U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION LIKELY TO BE ONE OF MAJOR MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING VISIT, MOST CHAMBER MEMBERS FIND LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS HARD TO DEAL WITH SINCE THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ENTAIL. CLOUDINESS OF NEW U.S. LAW AND REGULATIONS PROBABLY MEANT LESS U.S./ARAB TRADE AND MORE WORK FOR AMERICAN ATTORNEYS. EMBOFF SUPPLIED COPIES OF JAN. 30 EAA BOYCOTT REGULATIONS AND BRIEFING.

5. COMMENTING ON AMMAN UNION OF ARAB CHAMBERS MEETING, JAMAL UDDIN SAID LIBYANS AND EGYPTIANS SURPRISINGLY DID NOT CLASH, PERHAPS BECAUSE MEMBERS OF TWO DELEGATIONS WERE BUSINESSMEN, NOT POLITICANS, AND MANY WERE OLD ACQUAINTANCES WHO WERE WELL AWARE THAT POLITICAL QUARRELS CAN BE TRANSIENT.

6. COMMENT: THE FOCAL POINT OF THIS EXERCISE BEING THE UACC

AND DR. DAJANI, WE CANNOT SAY MUCH ABOUT PROPOSED SCHEDULES, MEETINGS, ETC. HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE DISORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION, IF NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL ARAB FIGURES DO PARTICIPATE, WE SUGGEST DEPT. CONSIDER RECEIVING MISSION AT SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL. IF KUWAITI PARTICIPATION IS PREPRESENTATIVE, MISSION LIKELY TO CONSIST LARGELY OF ARAB BUSINESSMEN WHOSE EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES HAS HERETOFORE BEEN RATHER ONE-DIMENSIONAL, I.E. TRADE ORIENTED. A BRIEFING FOR THEM BY NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY (OR EVEN BY THE SECRETARY IF HE HAS TIME) ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY WOULD BE A HIGH POINT OF THEIR VISIT TO THE U.S. AND WOULD BE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS HERE.

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7. FOR NEA/ARP AND USDOC/ITA/BED/CAGNE: WHILE MISSION PLANNING THEORETICALLY BEING COORDINATED BY UACC, MEMBERS OF KUWAITI DELEGATION MAY WELL GO THEIR OWN WAYS. WE WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH YOUR PHONE NUMBERS AND HOPE THAT ANY ASSISTANCE THEY MAY ASK WIL NOT BE TOO MUCH OF AN IMPOSITION. MANY OF THESE BUSINESSMEN HAVE NET WORTH OF 8-9 FIGURES, HAVE FINGERS IN MANY VARIED PIES, AND SHOULD BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO USDOC/CAGNE.  
MAESTRONE

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